

DIOCESE OF NEWCASTLE

PATRONAGE (BENEFICES) MEASURE 1986

Statement prepared by the P.C.C. describing the Church's ministry and mission within the parish

This form is designed to give an overview of a parish to be used in a vacancy for the appointment of a new parish priest. It will be accepted as the 'statement describing the conditions, needs and traditions of the parish' required by the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986. Additional information may be given by way of printed documents or written submissions.

I. Parish Information

1. Name of Parish: *St Paul North Sunderland*
2. Name of Parish church(es) *St Paul North Sunderland*
3. Name of other C of E churches/centres for public worship in the parish *None*
4. Group of parishes in which you work (formally or informally): *Benefice of Beadnell Ellingham and North Sunderland*
5. Deanery: *Bamburgh and Glendale*
6. Population: *1678*
- 7.(a) Number on Electoral Roll *33*
- (b) Date of APCM at which this number was declared: *June 2026*
7. Attendance at worship at each church:

Average Sunday Communicants 20-30
Average Sunday attendance 20-30
Average weekday Communicants one monthly service average 8
Average weekday attendance one monthly service average 8
8. Occasional Offices:

Number of baptisms in the last 12 months: 4
Number of persons confirmed in the last 12 months: 0
Number of weddings in the last 12 months: 0

Number of funerals in church in the last 12 months: 9

Number of funerals taken by clergy not in church in the last 12 months: 6

II. The Local Community

1.(a) Briefly describe the population in terms of any predominant age and/or social groups, the ethnic mix etc:

Parish: North Sunderland: St Paul

Parish population (2021 census)	1,685
Area (square miles)	4.6
% aged 0-4	2.2
% aged 5-19	11.9
% aged 20-29	7.4
% aged 45-69	38.7
% aged 70 and over	27.0
% Asian ethnicity	0.2
% Mixed ethnicity	0.6
% Other ethnicity	0.2
% Christian	63.2
% Jewish	0.0
% Sikh	0.0

% No religion	31.1

You will see from this that we are an older community predominantly Christian with some younger families

(b) Are there any special social problems, e.g. high unemployment?

Much employment is seasonal and related to tourism

2. Please list:

Local schools: *Seahouses primary and Busy Bees Nursery post 11 at Alnwick*

Youth centres: *Youth Club at Seahouses Hub*

Hospitals: *Local at Alnwick and Berwick Major at Cramlington Wansbeck and Newcastle Hospitals*

Nursing/residential homes, sheltered housing: *Anchor housing Flats at Chapel Court A large number of Bungalows for over 55s*

Places of worship of other faiths: *Methodist and Roman Catholic*

Local businesses: *46 and 4 Hotels Large numbers of builders servicing domestic and holiday properties*

Neighbourhood initiatives: *Seahouses Development Trust New Vicar will be invited to join*

Local associations: *Golf WI Volunteer Group Masons History Society*

Any civic responsibilities of local clergy: *Remembrance Membership of Development Trust Chair of the Hostel which is separate charity - church based Some relationship with National (they have not been cooperative lately)*

III. The Church Community (please give details for each church)

1.(a) What percentage of the congregation lives outside the parish? *Less than 1%*

(b) Describe the congregation in terms of age, employment, culture, ethnicity and gender: *See Above*

2. Please describe the tradition of your church and give details of robes/vestments worn by officiants:

Central Catholic with Vestments

During Covid We experimented with outdoor services when these became possible and alternated services on Sundays and Wednesday due to a desire not to compress things after the lockdowns in 2020 and 2021.

After Covid our Regular Pattern emerged which each Parish using the same service seasonally and across the period of ordinary time. There is a common Tradition of Open Catholic Eucharistic Worship, but most would see themselves as simply CofE We are therefore seeking ideally a Priest with those skills and qualities who will teach, encourage and guide us, help us to build upon the achievements of the past 7 years and enable us to be adaptive and develop our vocation in serving these rural communities. We have this will help us to fulfil the Diocesan Vision Seeking: Sharing: Sending.

Sundays

09.00 Eucharist at Beadnell except 5th Sunday using two retired Priests Each Month (20—30 people)

09.15 Eucharist at Ellingham (4th Sunday Lay Led M.P.) one retired priest on 2nd Sunday (7-10 sometimes 16 people with couples preparing for Marriage)

10.30 Eucharist at North Sunderland except 5th Sunday led by the incumbent always (20—30 people)

On the 5th Sunday a United Eucharist revolves around the Benefice plus United Eucharists for Patronal Festivals

Wednesday 10am Eucharist at Beadnell (12-18 people)

Friday 3pm Monthly Eucharist at North Sunderland TBC after new priest arrives

Worship online Since Covid

During Covid and afterwards Sunday and latterly Daily Worship, “Reflections” has been available online at <https://www.youtube.com/@TonyMacpherson>

This was very widely accessed during the pandemic but is still accessed now

Teaching and Study

The focus of teaching and preaching since the benefice began has been around the Churches being Salt and Light for their communities. Building upon the influence of the Northern Saints in this Cradle of Christianity but also on the teaching of St Paul and the courage and witness of St Maurice and his Legion.

Each Church now has interpretative boards about this heritage Each week there is a meditation online and during the pandemic there was daily reflection and teaching. In person Study groups have not been as successful as hoped in 2025/26 but the annual Lent gathering Cross on the Coast continues to be well supported in person as it was online in 2020/2021.

We are ready for the new incumbent to build upon this and to lead us into new understanding of both our heritage and witness to each community.

Each Church has completed the 101 survey and continues to be accessible to all whilst taking a conscious decision to compete with existing community halls. In each village church

members are active in the governance of the Community Halls. The Beadnell WI, Ellingham Village Hall and Seahouses Hub they are our partners and not competitors

3. Give details of Sunday services with times and form of service used: *See Above*
4. Give details of weekday services: *See Above*
5. List any authorised ministers (e.g. Reader, Church Army Officer, Ordained Local Minister, Non-stipendiary Minister, Curate in training, retired Clergy): *Reader with PTO post 75 Retired Clergy - two in Parish three in Benefice (Two of these have been the vicar previously)*
- 6.(a) What is the average weekly giving of those aged 16 years and older, and what proportion of the giving is gift aided: *£325 per week of which approx £289 was gift aided*
- (b) When did the parish last have a stewardship campaign: *post covid we did a small campaign*
7. How does each church supplement direct giving in order to meet financial needs (eg fundraising events, hall lettings, occasional offices, investments): *Fund Raising especially coffee mornings and summer stalls – it is a struggle*
- 8.(a) Give details of expenses paid to the incumbent, and state whether this covers them in full. *All expenses were paid as requested - these are paid by the benefice each church contributing*
- (b) Is there an annual discussion about the level of expenses as part of the budgeting process: *NO we pay*
9. What amount of Share has been (a) requested and (b) paid:
Last year: *£20400 was offered and paid*
Current year: *our treasurer is ill at present but we increased our offer as requested*
Next year:
- 10.(a) Is there any capital project in hand at the moment: *we have completed in June 2026 a £50 K plus solar and heating project with CAN and the CofE Net Zero Fund This project took for 2019 to come to fruition*
- 10.(b) If so, please give brief details with costs and state how they are to be met: *25K from CofE hardship Grant plus and equal amount from CAN Basically the CofE paid for the Heat Exchanger and CAN the Solar*
11. Please attach a copy of the latest statement of accounts.

IV. Church Buildings (please give details for each church)

- 1.(a) What is the general state of repair of the churches: *Good we have nearly completed a drainage project at a cost of over 10K*
- (b) Please give details of any major maintenance needed following the last Quinquennial Inspection: *see above drainage*
2. Please give details of church halls and any other ancillary buildings (and an indication of the level of their use). *None see above about partnership with Hub and Hostel*
3. Is there a churchyard to maintain and who is responsible for its maintenance? *NO Closed maintained by NCC*

V. Outreach and Mission

- 1.(a) What are the regular mission and outreach activities of the parish:
 - (b) What are you doing to help people find out about Jesus:
 - (c) What are you doing to help grow people in discipleship:
 - (d) What are you doing to grow people in leadership:
We share with local Churches in a lent project Cross on the coast which also raises money for deprived young people in urban areas to experience a hostel holiday
Messy Church now coordinated by St Pauls
Open the Book an ecumenical group
We have focuses on Community events particularly around special Exhibitions
The Queen Jubilee
The Death of Prince Phillip
The Death of Queen Elizabeth II
The accession and Coronation of King Charles III
Remembrance Sunday
WW2 Anniversaries
Clergy Visits to benefice Schools including CofE School at Ellingham which covers the Parish
Prayer and Study through regular You tube services and reflection which are viewed regularly by between 25 and 75 people
Special Services for RNLI
3 people in the Parish and 5 in the benefice did ALM - though some have moved away one other person does Home Communion
- 2.(a) Please give details of support for the church overseas:
 - (b) How much is given annually:
 - 3.(a) Give details of support for home missions and charities:
 - (b) How much is given annually:

Water Aid
Red Cross

*Christian Aid
Air Ambulance
Children's Society
Christians in Middle East
£750 plus specific donations eg disaster appeals*

4.(a) Does the parish have an overseas link: *NO*

(b) If so, please state where/who

5.(a) Is there an organised system of outreach and welcome to new families: *NO*

(b) If so, please describe:

6. What part does the church play in community care: Visits - *our ALM make up to 7 Friendship Visits*

7.(a) Are there Lay Eucharistic Assistants who take communion to the sick:
Reader plus one Churchwarden Our ALM decided to do this

(b) If so, who are they:

Carole Field Andrew Marjoribanks

8. What work does the church undertake with young people, other than in church based organisations (eg open youth work): *We only do Messy Church and Schools work some will be in absence*

VI. Ecumenical Relationships

1(a) Involvement in local Council of Churches *The Vicar has coordinated meeting of local clergy Lay led Ecumenical work is defunct this encompasses community service remembrance boat blessing etc which are organised by the vicar and other denominations participate*

(b) Is there a formal covenant with any other denomination? *No*

2. What informal ecumenical contacts are there? *See above and open the book*

VII. Church Education and Social Provision

1.(a) Name of Church School(s), if applicable: *Ellingham Coffee E Primary - Vicar is Governor*

(b) Aided?
Controlled?
Foundation? *Y*

(c) Number of pupils on roll (approx.): *46 plus early years*

(d) *If aided, does the PCC support the school:*

There is also a County School in Seahouses which the Church supports informally

VIII. Lay Education and Participation

1. *What education and training work takes place in the church for the following (give approx. numbers):*

Children: *Messy Church 8 Children*

Young People:

Adults: *small study group in 2025 and 2026 -6 people online and you tube reflections*

2.(a) *Give details of house/prayer groups:*

(b) *Are the leaders clergy or lay:*

3.(a) *How do you rate the strength of lay leadership: Lay leadership has been svery upportive of our priest and the reader commits to one Sunday per month in parish and one in the neighbouring deanery*

(b) *To what do you credit this strength or the lack of it: Good collaboration and consultation with wardens playing a key part*

IX. Mission

1. *List areas of church life which you consider in need of development: The future of Family ministry*

2. *What are the main areas of mission that you think the new priest should prioritise in their ministry: Growing younger in the sense of developing the under 50s as well as younger people*

3. *In summary, what are the top three challenges with which you and the new priest need to engage:*

Building on our recovery after covid

Building upon the previous priests involvement in community projects and taking Jesus into the community

Growth in Numbers and faith

4.

X. Additional Information

Please add here, or on another sheet, anything else which you would like the Patron and the Bishop to know about the conditions, needs and traditions of the parish.

XI. The new parish priest

List the qualities and skills you would like to see the new priest:

Strong Leadership

Collaborative Nature

Love of People

Passionate Faith and a desire to share Jesus with others in the community

Rooted in Christian Tradition of the Region

Openness to Families and Young People